

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims, if accepted, will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Amended) A method of inventory control comprising the steps of:

providing inventory item attributes comprising data elements in computer memory, wherein the inventory item attributes describe an inventory item, the inventory item has an RFID identification tag having an RFID identification tag code, and the inventory item attributes comprise:

an RFID identification tag code field,
a control value,
an acceptable control value range, and
an out of range action;

detecting changes in the inventory item attributes, wherein detecting changes in inventory item attributes includes reading, through an RFID reader, the RFID identification code from the RFID tag associated with the inventory item;

recording detected changes in inventory item attributes;

comparing the control value and the acceptable control value range; and

taking action in dependence upon the result of the comparing and the out of range action, wherein detecting changes, recording detected changes, comparing the control value and the acceptable control value range, and taking action are carried out through Java servlets in at least one Open Sources Gateway Initiative

('OSGI')-compliant service bundle installed and operating in an OSGI-compliant service gateway.

2. (Previously Cancelled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'pounds';

detecting changes includes reading the weight of the inventory item from a scale; and

recording detected changes comprises storing the weight of the inventory item in the control value.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'freshness';

detecting changes in the inventory attributes of the inventory item further comprises:

reading from a clock the time when the inventory item is removed from a refrigerator,

reading the temperature from a kitchen thermometer,

reading from the clock the time when the inventory item is returned to the refrigerator, and

calculating a freshness coefficient in dependence upon the time when removed, the time when returned, and the temperature; and

recording detected changes comprises storing the freshness coefficient in the control value.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'utilization';

detecting changes in the inventory attributes of the inventory item includes detecting that the inventory item has been removed from and returned to an inventory storage location; and

recording detected changes comprises incrementing the control value, wherein the control value represents the number of times the inventory item has been utilized.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the inventory item comprises a quantity of separate items;

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'count';

detecting changes in the inventory attributes includes detecting that one of the separate items has been removed from inventory; and

recording detected changes comprises decrementing the control value, wherein the control value represents the quantity of separate items.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise:

a control value unit field set to 'days', and

an inventory date representing the date when the inventory item entered inventory;

detecting changes comprises:

reading from a clock the current date, and

calculating the age of the inventory item in dependence upon the current date and the inventory date; and

recording detected changes comprises storing the age of the inventory item in the control value.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein taking action comprises emailing an order to a vendor to reorder the inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value range.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein taking action comprises emailing a message to a user advising the user to discard the inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value range.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein taking action comprises sending, through HTTP and through a vendor service gateway directly to a vendor's online order system, an HTML order for the inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value range.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Cancelled)

13 – 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Cancelled)

23 – 30. (Cancelled)